Carmen Cruz wanted nothing more than to be part of the ***X-Men.***

One day, she walked through a magic portal to a living island where she and all of her favorite heroes could never die.

It felt too good to be true.

A multiversal doppelganger on Orchis' leash. Clever.

Carmen's dreams shattered the night of the Hellfire Gala, and she awoke to find herself in the company of a very different sort of X-Men.

Oh, I'm no one's pet, ***Sister.***

Death feels much closer at hand now...

Carmen-- ***move!***

...though there are still heroes to be found amid the darkness.

Leave no one standing, my X-Men.

BAMF

BAMF

BAMF

I got you, Feint.

Cut them down!

CH-CHOOM

CHOOM

RAT A

Your mind...it's a barren hellscape.

You let them neuter your mutant abilities...?

We've got this, X-Men! Don't back down!

Snikt! Snikt!

SNIKT

SNIKT

I *outgrew* them. And it caused these fools to let their guards down.

I've spent my entire life in one Limbo after another. Enough time to master arcane arts you can hardly *conceive*.

Although I am impressed with the *toy* you've created.

The *Mercy Crown* is not a weapon.

It's a tool of *rescue*. So that I might *save* mutantkind.

Hrrggk!

It can touch any *mutant soul* on Earth. Perhaps even beyond.

I don't need to look inside your mind to know why you made something like this, Madelyne.

CRRK

Hnnhh.

If and when Orchis falls, *Scott Summers* and all the other good little mutants will need new threats to keep them busy.

You made the Mercy Crown so that when the X-Men inevitably turn on you once more...you'll be ready to *snuff them out.*

CRRK

I've crossed *universes.*

In all of them, *Madelyne Pryor* is born to *suffer.*

Now, now, stop struggling.

That is our sole constant.

And we only overcome that suffering by *seizing power* of our own.

Orchis never *tamed* me. I haven't come here to unseat you on their behalf, sister.

I've come to *recruit* you.

Wage war with me. *Us against the world.*

THWAP

[fall__of]
[_____X]

FALL OF X

DARK X-MEN

[fall__of]
[_____X]

Us Against the World

Madelyne Pryor formed her own team in order to rescue and protect mutants in the face of Orchis' anti-mutant crusade, but right now, Madelyne and her team need to defend themselves in the face of Orchis' direct assault on their home base: the Limbo Embassy!

Using the Goblin Queen (an alternate universe demonic version of Madelyne) and her Bamf Dragon to brute force their way into the embassy, Orchis agents Krol and Vallens were unsuccessful in recruiting the imprisoned Chasm to their cause...but they're not planning on leaving empty-handed. Plus, the Goblin Queen has her own bone to pick with her counterpart...

1___[MADELYNE PRYOR]
2___[HAVOK]
3___[FEINT]
4___[EMPLATE]
5___[AZAZEL]
6___[GAMBIT]
7___[ZERO/ALBERT]
8___[GOBLIN QUEEN]
9___[AGENT KROL]
10__[AGENT VALLENS]

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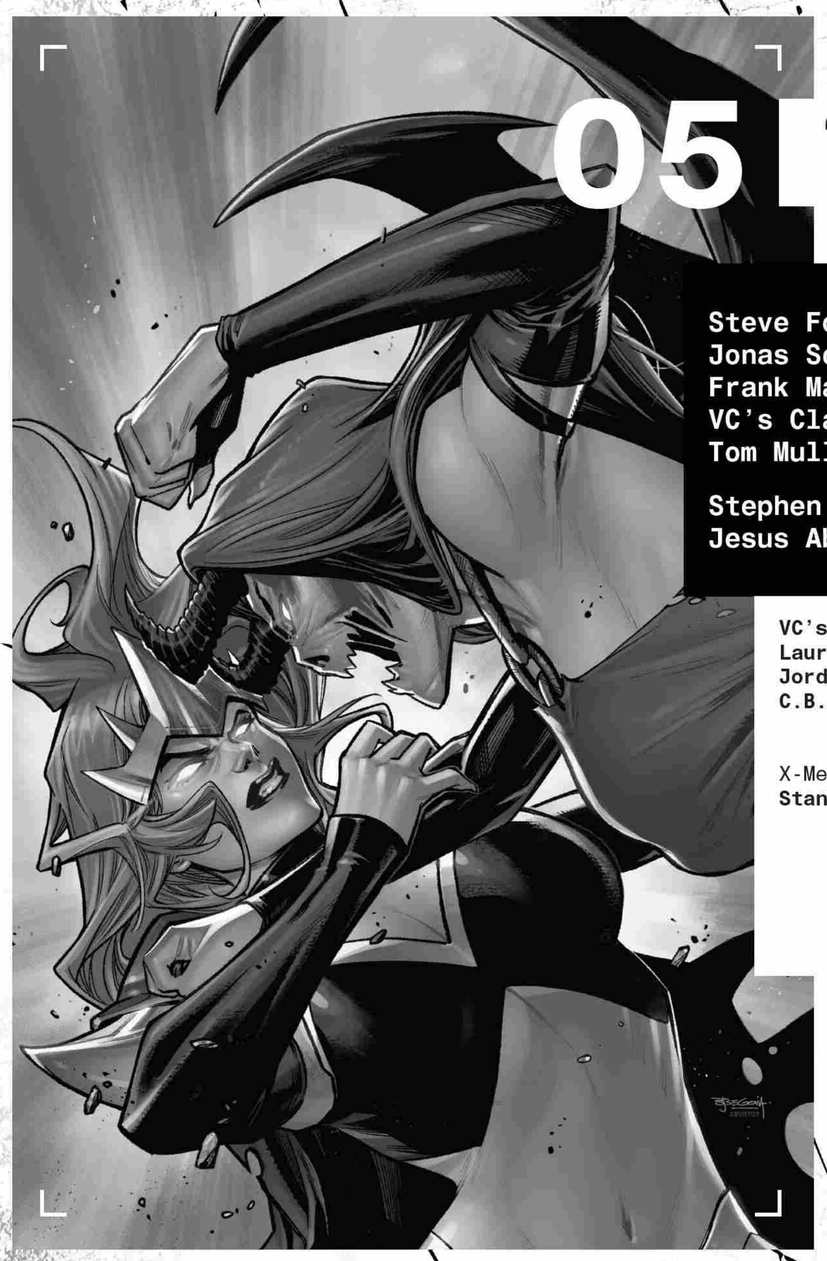

05

"THE MERCY SEAT"

Steve Foxe/Writer
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VC's Clayton Cowles/Letterer
Tom Muller & Jay Bowen/Design

Stephen Segovia & Jesus Aburtov/Cover Artists

VC's Clayton Cowles/Production
Lauren Amaro/Associate Editor
Jordan D. White/Editor
C.B. Cebulski/Editor in Chief

X-Men created by
Stan Lee & **Jack Kirby**

[dark__05]
[x-men_05]

[fall__of]
[_____X]

Vallens, if you can hear me-- find cover.

I'm breaking out the heavy ordnance.

I'm gonna bweak your face, you jerk!

Big talk for an automaton in your position.

BZT.

El-El-Elsie-Dee?

Huh?

Aww, is this a family reunion? Group hug!

NO!

RUNCH

This is gwoss!

I agree! Let's take out our feelings on everyone around us!

We made a deal, ᛒᛏᛗᛜᚲᛟ. Keep me safe from harm!

Ah, let me guess.

You sold your soul to the first minor devil who crossed your path, didn't you?

Every Hell has a hierarchy, child. And there is always...

RAMF

...a bigger, badder wolf.

SNARRL!

Azazel! Where are you, demon?!

Help me!

God helps those who help themselves, my thrall.

Hrrrm.

Fine.

Your impudence will not go unpunished.

My, you're an *uncomfortably* familiar-looking dragon, aren't y--

Emplate! Where you goin'?

WOK-K

Elsewhere. My family's debt is settled.

I don't care what happens to *any of you.*

I never have.

Twice...twice, I've nearly conquered this godforsaken world.

And *twice*, Jean, Scott--poor, sweet *Alex*, most of all--have welcomed me back into the fold. I will not--

Ah, I made the same error once myself.

We must rely *only* on ourselves, Sister.

Argghh!

You will understand in time, once we've dealt with these lesser beings.

ENOUGH!

Yes! Embrace your wrath, Sister!

Let it light the flames with which we'll consume this world!

What's she--*hnnhh*--going to do, Gambit?

I wish I--*uff*--knew, *chère*.

That @#$%'s mind twicks don't affect robots. Qwuick, let's get outta here while he's fwozen, Albert!

Hehehehe... tickles!

Claim *your* Crown, Madelyne!

Obliterate your false attachments. Don't wait to be betrayed again.

You know it's only a matter of time.

Together, we can raze this realm and use Limbo as a gateway to gather more of our sisters!

We *deserve* as much for what we've suffered. For being *born* to suffer.

We don't have to be alone anymore.

-Groan-

Every time I wear the Mercy Crown, I can feel the power just beyond my fingertips.

If I wanted to, I could reach out and grab their souls like fragile little birds...

Grab their souls...

...and squeeze.

Maddie, wait!

Remember who you are! Who you used to be! Who you still *can* be!

You get to decide, not some demon Hell-@#$%&!

Oh, Carmen.

Such a trite and manipulative move.

I'm so, *so* proud of you, my student.

Huh?

Maddie, are you--?

I'm fine, Alex.

Carmen is right. I write my own story...

thunk

...and I decide the *ending.*

The Limbo Embassy, NYC. One week later.

Madelyne Pryor used to dream of a life stolen from her.

Until she remembered that none of us live ***just one*** life.

Limbo reflects its ruler, so it does not surprise Madelyne...

...that this in-between dimension is in a constant state of ***change.***

The Morlock Tunnels, beneath the embassy's infernal halls.

You gon' miss that wicked witch, Cajun?

Careful-- she got ears e'rywhere.

Surprised Pryor let you two walk out. Seems the vengeful type.

Welcome to the X-Men, Feint.

We'll figure out where you can help the most.

Cool.

The doors to the Limbo Embassy remain open.

You're so gross! You're going to love it here!

SNIKT

Can't believe I'm sayin' dis... but the day we need to call in the cavalry?

I think she'll be dere for us wit' Hell's bells on.

Madelyne has come to accept that the sanctuary she offers is not for everyone.

Certain souls are beyond salvation...

...and not all monsters can be tamed.

Although some do come to heel, eventually.

BAMF

And others yet must find their own way in life...

...however unusual that path might be.

Gwoss, you've still got fwesh goop in your hair!

Bzt.

Remy and the kid got down into the tunnels safely. Carmen gives her best.

Yes, she always does, doesn't she.

So...what now? We don't have much of an ***X-Men team*** left, *huh?*

We never did.

I made a rare misstep declaring myself a ***leader,*** Alex.

Jean was born to lead. I was born to suffer.

But that doesn't matter, because I ***made myself*** so much more.

I am ***Madelyne Pryor,*** the ruler of Limbo...

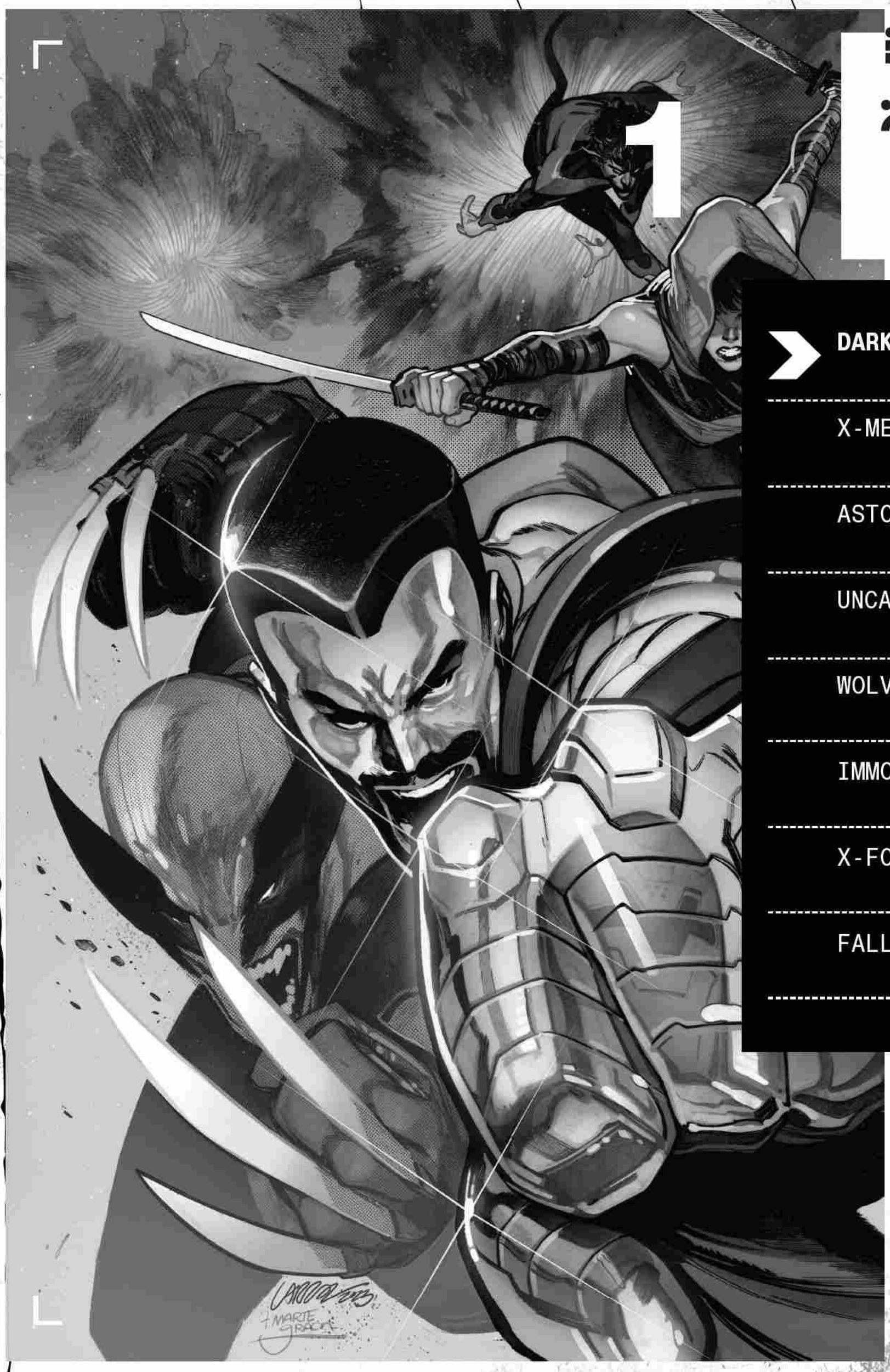
...and once and forever, the ***Goblin Queen.***

The End...?

KAKOA is for all

[fall_of]
[_____X]

FOLLOW THE FALL:



- DARK X-MEN #5
- X-MEN RED #18
- ASTONISHING ICEMAN #5
- UNCANNY SPIDER-MAN #5
- WOLVERINE #40
- IMMORTAL X-MEN #18
- X-FORCE #47
- FALL OF THE HOUSE OF X #1

[dark__05]
[x-men_05]

KAMIC RIDER

MARIKA